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Education and Work, Australia

Survey data over time on current or recent study, educational attainments, and employment

Reference period May 2019

Released 13/11/2019

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Key statistics

- 66% of people aged 15-64 years were fully engaged in work and/or study.
- 19% of those aged 15-64 were currently studying (3.2 million people).
- 59% of school leavers were enrolled in further study (176,900 people).
- 68% of people aged 20-64 years had a non-school qualification.

Main features

Graph 1 - Proportion of 20-64 year olds with a non-school qualification, by sex, 2004-2019



Engagement in employment and/or education

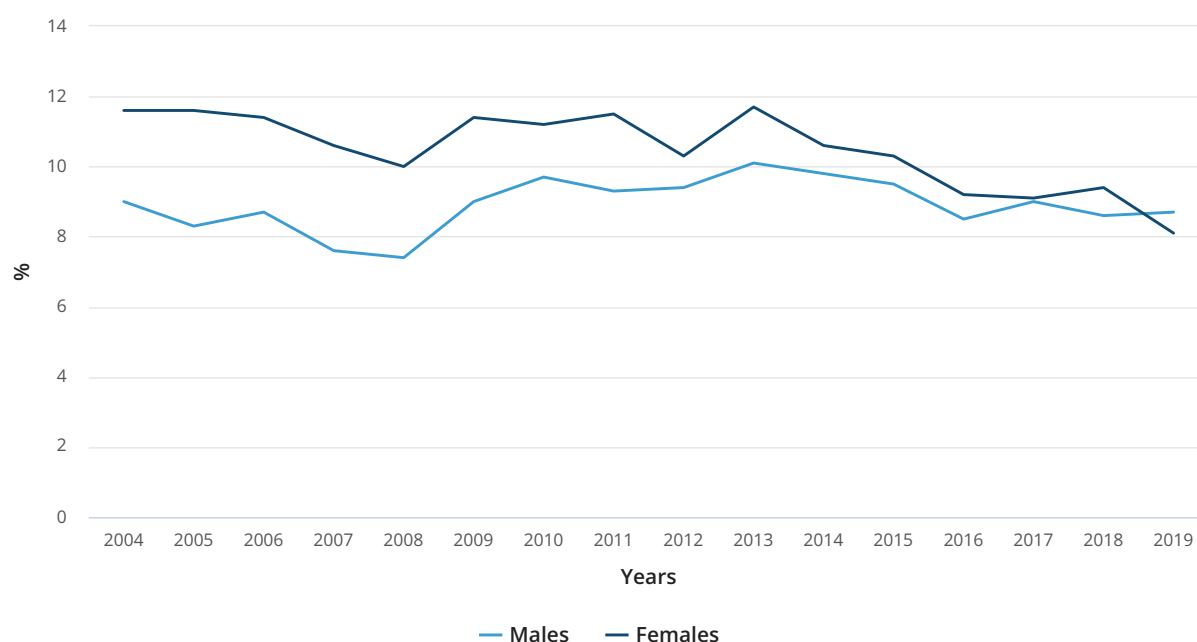
Key statistics

- The vast majority of young Australians (aged 15-24 years) were doing at least some work or study or a combination of both (92% or 3.0 million people).
- Four in five working age Australians (aged 15-64 years) were engaged in work and/or study (83% or 13.6 million people). This includes people who were either fully engaged or partially engaged.
- In this age group, it was more common for men (78%) than women (53%) to be fully engaged (that is, working full-time, studying full-time, or working and studying), however rates for young men and women (15-24 years) were more similar (83% compared with 79%).

Young Australians (aged 15-24 years)

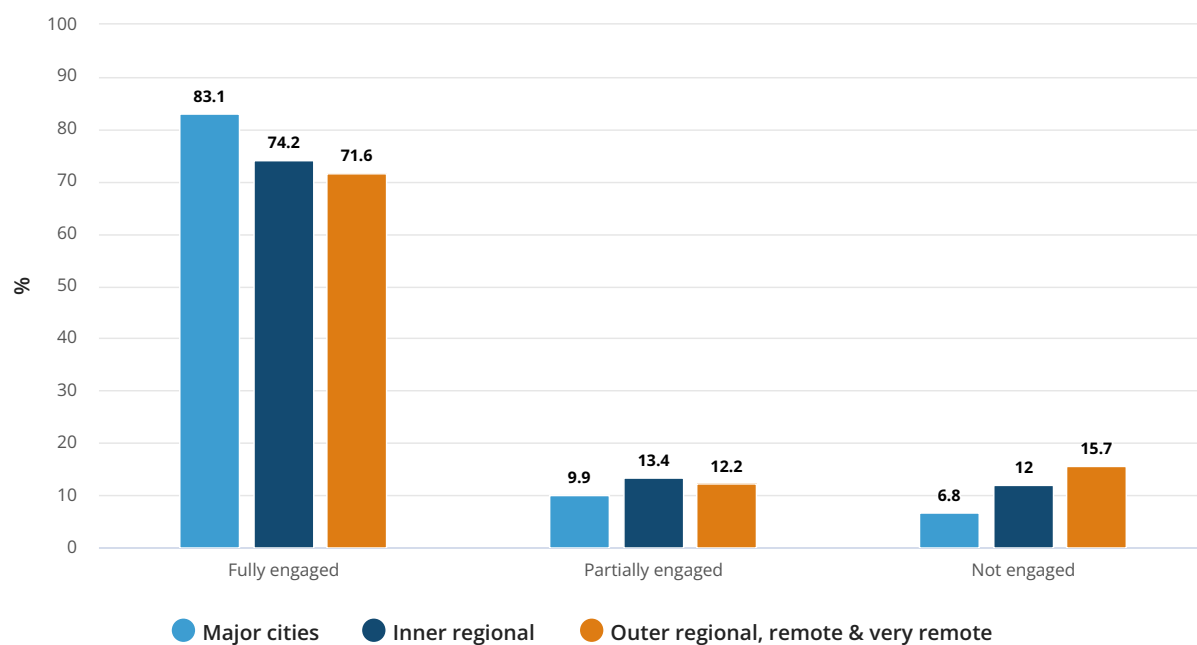
- Four in five young Australians (81%) were fully engaged in work and/or study (including those still in school), and a further 11% were partially engaged.
- Around 8.7% of young men and 8.1% of young women were not engaged in any work or study in 2019. Differences in rates of non-engagement for young men and women have been converging since 2004 as young women have increased their engagement (see Table 34 in the Data downloads section for more detail).

Graph 2 - Proportion of 15-24 year olds not engaged in employment or study, by sex, 2004-2019



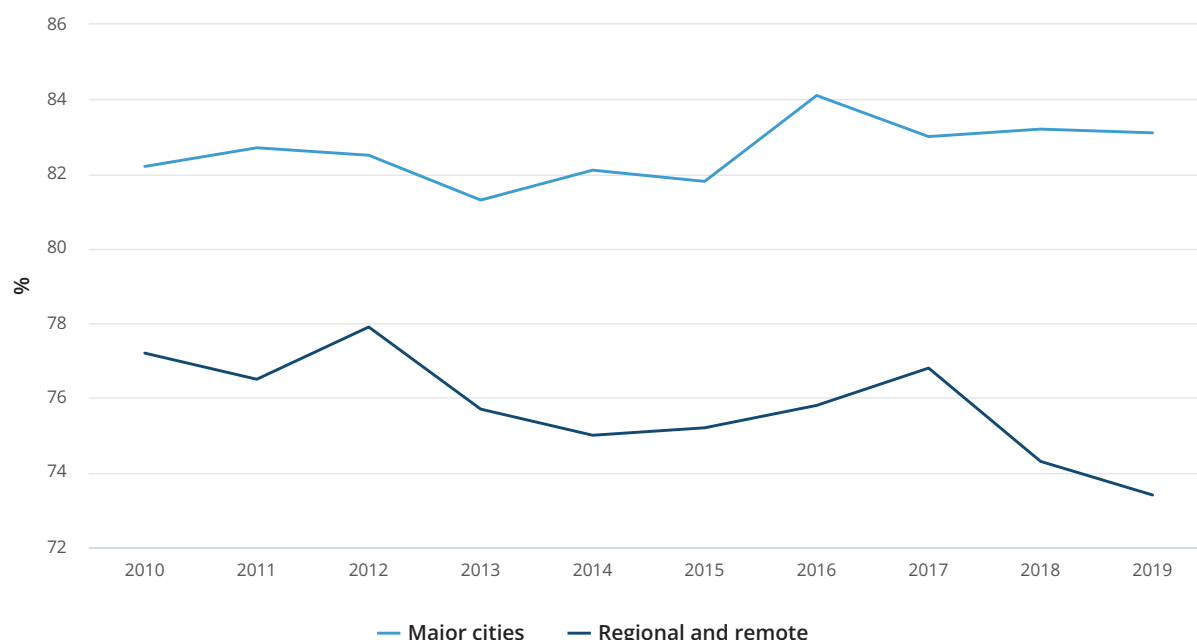
- Young people living outside major cities were less likely to be fully engaged in work and/or study. Around 83% of young people in major cities were fully engaged, but this dropped to 74% in inner regional areas and 72% in outer regional and remote areas.

Graph 3 - Proportion of 15-24 year olds fully engaged, partially engaged or not engaged in work and/or study, by remoteness, 2019



- Since 2010, the proportion of young people fully engaged in work and/or study has been consistently higher in major cities than in regional and remote Australia. (Remoteness time series available from 2010).

Graph 4 - Proportion of 15-24 year olds fully engaged in work and/or study, by remoteness, 2010-2019



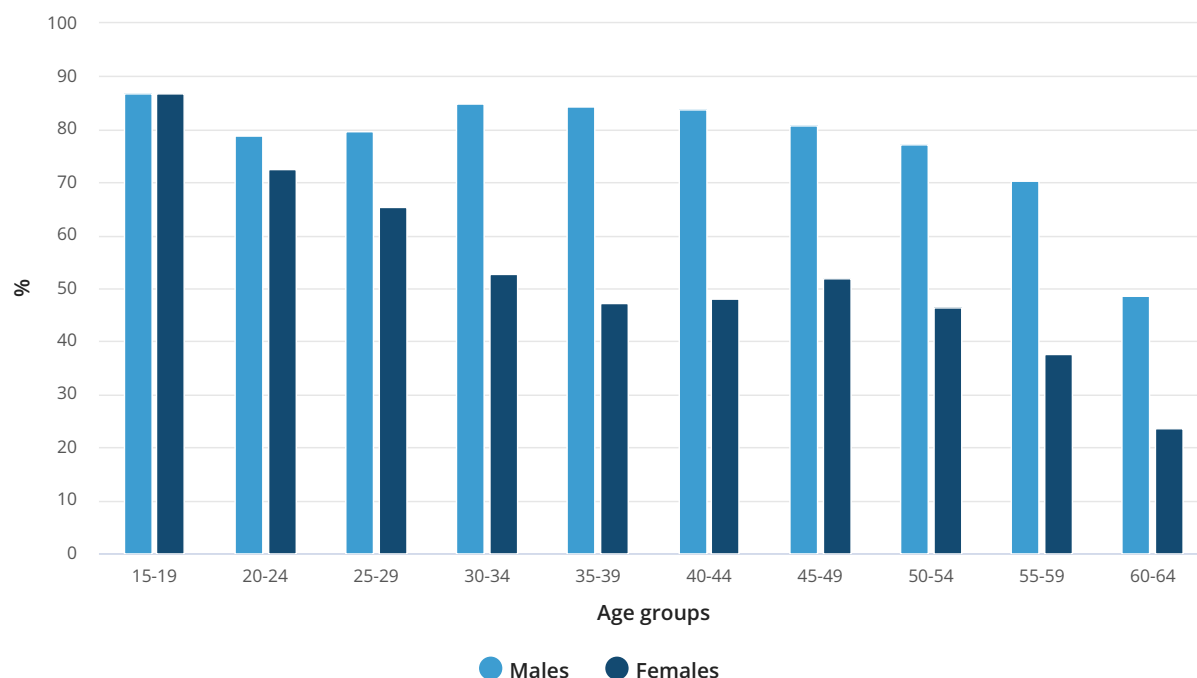
Young Australians not in school (aged 17-24 years)

- Three-quarters (74%) of Australians aged 17-24 years who were not still at school were fully engaged in work and/or further study.
- Around 36% were in full-time work, and a further 36% were in full-time study.
- The Australian Capital Territory had the highest rate of full engagement for this group (83%), followed by Victoria (79%) (see Table 33 in the Data downloads section for more detail).

Working age Australians (aged 15-64 years)

- Including people still at school, two-thirds of Australians aged 15 to 64 years were fully engaged in work and/or study (66%).
- From the age of 20, it was more common for men to be fully engaged in work and/or study than women (see Table 32 in the Data downloads section for more detail).

Graph 5 - Proportion of persons fully engaged in work and/or study, by sex



Current study

Key statistics

- Three in five (59%) of the 3.2 million working age Australians who were studying in 2019 were also employed.
- Overall, 12% of men and 16% of women in this age group were studying for a non-school qualification.
- Close to two-thirds (63%) of young Australians (aged 15-24 years) were currently studying.

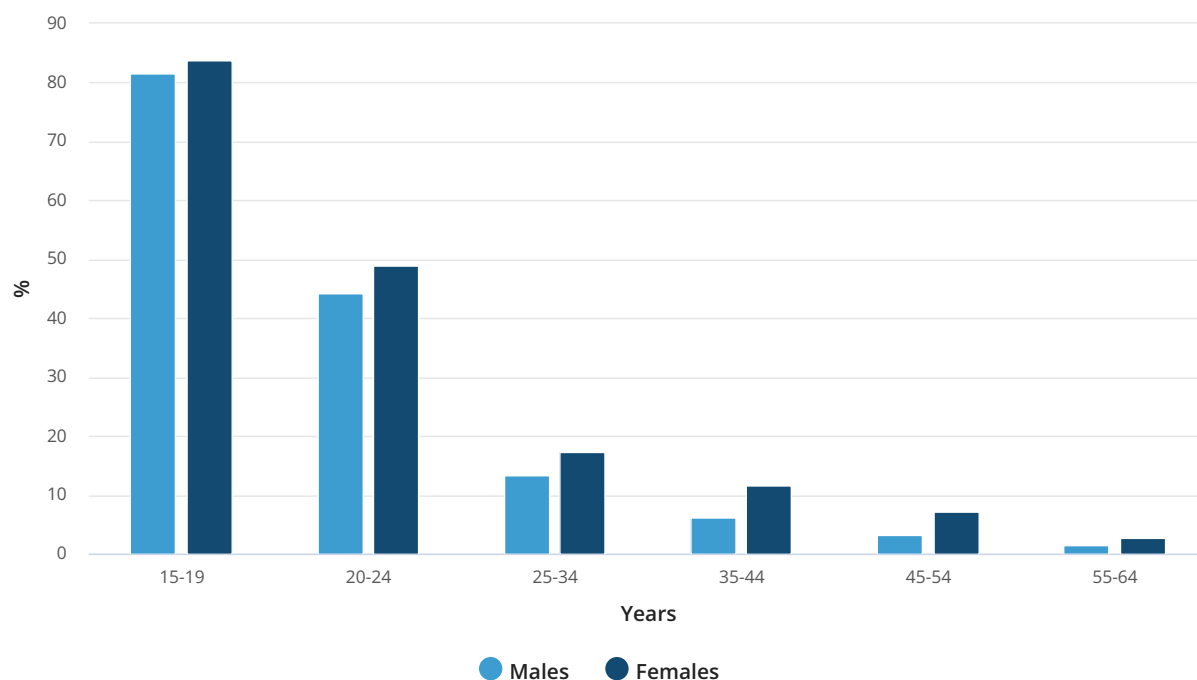
Enrolled in study (people aged 15-64 years)

- Around 18% of men and 21% of women aged 15-64 years were enrolled in study in 2019.
- One in five apprentices or trainees were women (21%), compared with 58% of people studying for a bachelor degree or above.
- Around 1.4 million people were studying at higher education institutions and over half a

million (517,800) were studying at technical and further education (TAFE) institutions.

- Close to two-thirds of these students (68%) were studying full-time.
- See Tables 1, 2, 5, 8, 19 and 21 in the Data downloads section for more detail.

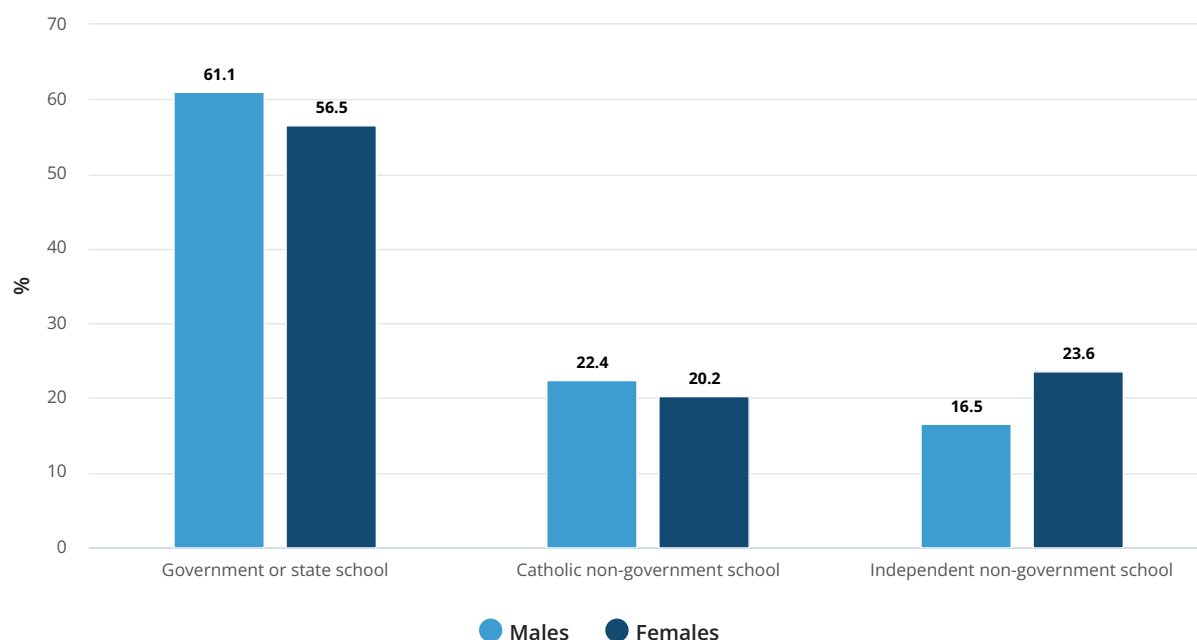
Graph 6 - Proportion of persons currently enrolled in study, by sex and age, 2019



School study (people aged 15-19 years)

- 868,000 people aged 15 to 19 years were enrolled in school study in 2019, ranging from 99% of 15 year olds to 11% of 18-19 year olds. Around two-thirds of these students went to a government school (59%).

Graph 7 - Proportion of 15-19 year olds enrolled in school study, by type of school and sex, 2019



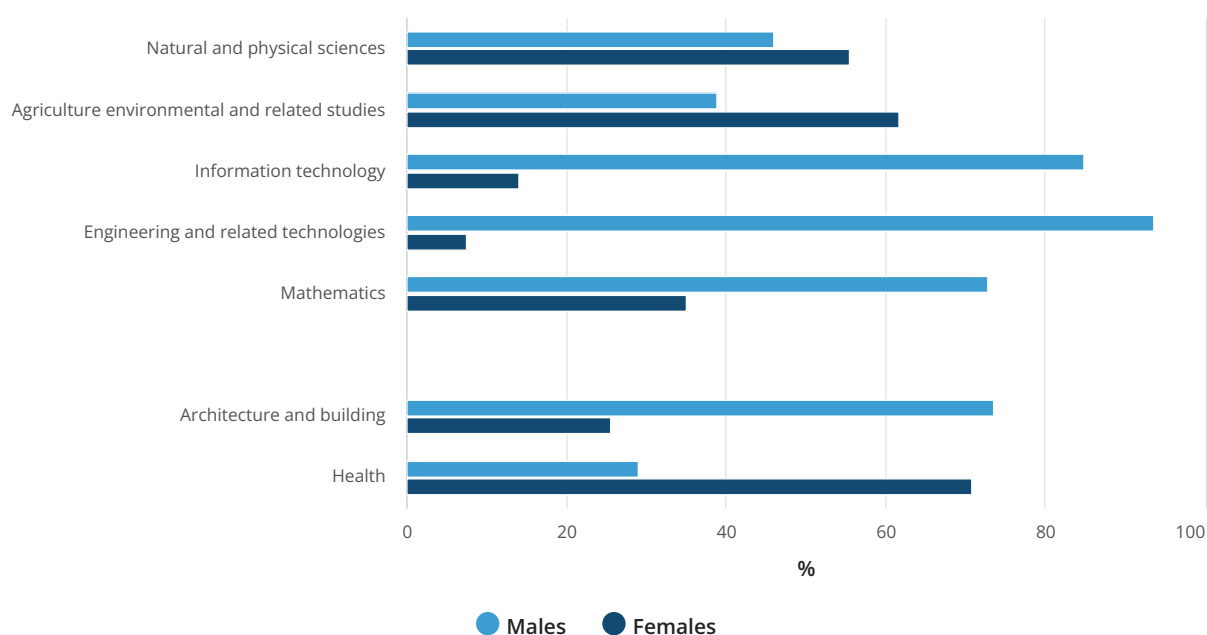
- 163,700 students were doing vocational education and training (VET) as part of their school studies (54% male and 46% female), with 52,000 of these doing school-based apprenticeships or traineeships.
- See Table 7 in the Data downloads section for more detail.

Non-school study (people aged 15-64 years)

- Two in five people aged 15-64 years who were studying for a non-school qualification were doing bachelor degrees (39%), while 19% were doing post-graduate studies (including graduate diplomas and certificates), and 22% were studying for a certificate III or IV.
- The most popular two fields of non-school study were management and commerce, and society and culture (both 21%), followed by health (15%) (see Table 6 in the Data downloads section for more detail).
- Of the 459,500 people who were studying science, technology, engineering or mathematics (STEM) fields in 2019, three-quarters were men (74%). A further 474,800 people were studying the STEM-related fields of architecture and building, and health.

While architecture and building students reflected the gender split of students in STEM fields (74% men, 26% women), this was reversed for health students where 71% were women.

Graph 8 - Proportion of 15-64 year olds currently studying a non-school qualification in a STEM or STEM-related field (a), by sex, 2019



a. Refer to the glossary for more detail on STEM and STEM-related fields.

Younger students (aged 15-24 years)

- There were just over 2 million young Australians (aged 15-24 years) enrolled in study in 2019 (including school study) (see Table 21 in the Data downloads section for more detail).
- Just over 1.1 million were studying for a certificate III or above (see Table 22 for more detail).
- More young women were studying at higher education institutions (46% compared with 37% of young men), while more young men were studying at TAFE institutions (15% compared with 9% of young women).

School leavers (aged 15-20 years)

- There were 298,700 people aged 15 to 20 years who were enrolled in secondary school in 2018 but were not enrolled in May 2019.
- Four in five of these school leavers (81%) had completed year 12 or equivalent, and 59% were currently enrolled in further study.
- Of the school leavers who were not studying, 37% were unemployed, 35% were employed part-time and 24% were employed full-time.
- See Table 17 in the Data downloads section for more detail.

Apprentices and trainees (aged 15-64 years)

- In May 2019, there were 216,200 people aged 15 to 64 years who were employed as apprentices or trainees, up from 196,100 in 2018. The majority were male (79%).
- 104,800 people had commenced their apprenticeship or traineeship in the last 12 months.
- Most apprentices and trainees were born in Australia (89%), and nearly two-thirds (59%) were located in capital cities.
- See Table 19 in the Data downloads section for more detail.

Non-school qualifications

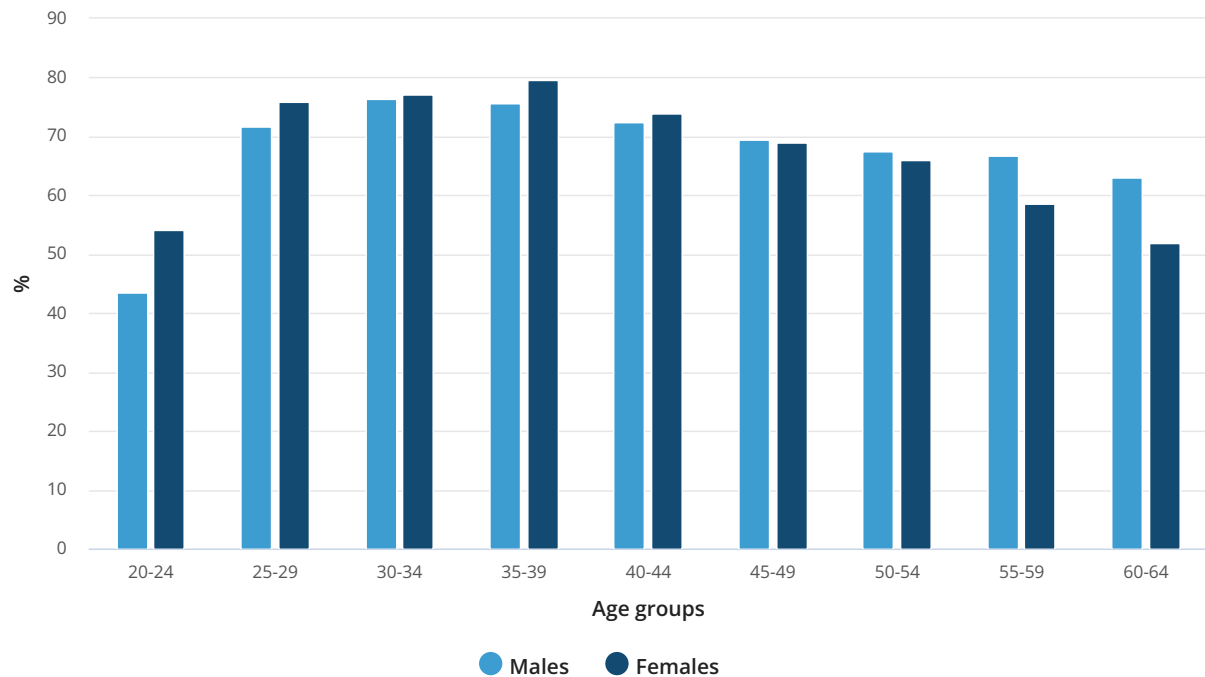
Key statistics

- In 2019, around two-thirds (68%) of Australians aged 20-64 years had a non-school qualification (a certificate, diploma or degree).
- A third (33%) of people in this age group had a bachelor degree or above (36% of women and 29% of men).
- Around three-quarters (77%) of people aged 15-74 years with a non-school qualification were employed, compared with 56% of people this age with no non-school qualifications.

Non-school qualifications

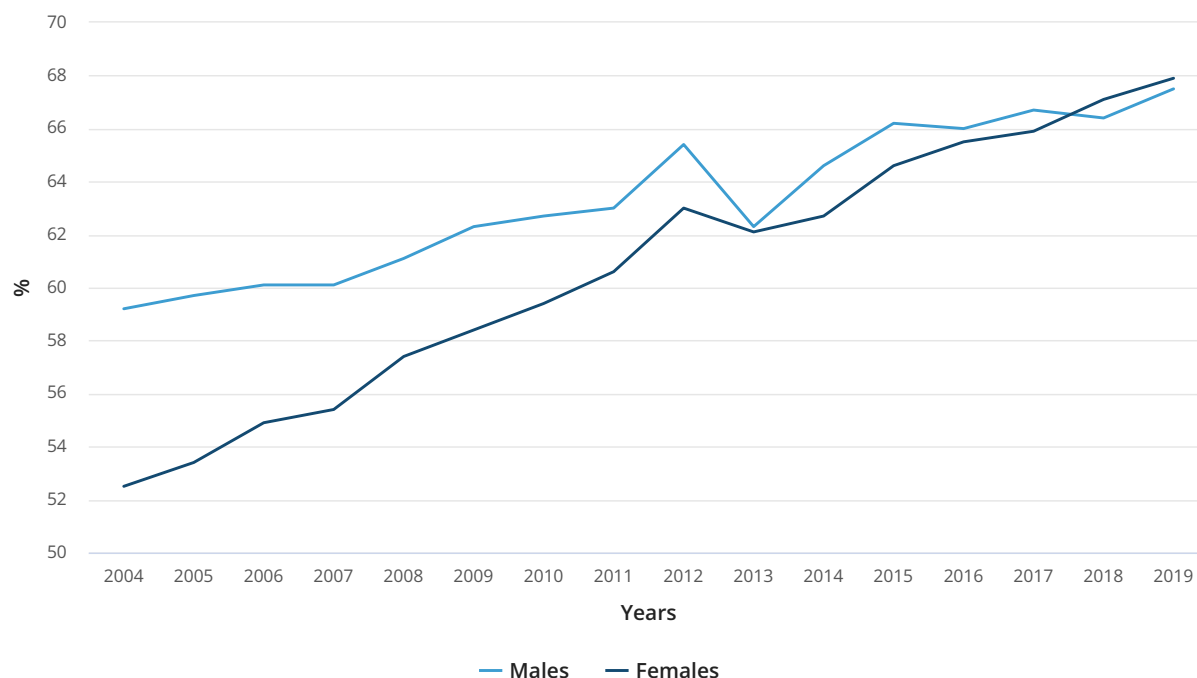
- Two-thirds of Australians aged 20 to 64 years had a non-school qualification (68% or 10.1 million people).
- In the older age groups (55-64 years), more men had non-school qualifications, however this was reversed for younger men and women (see Table 24 in the Data downloads section for more detail).

Graph 9 - Proportion of 20-64 year olds with a non-school qualification, by age and sex, 2019



- The rise in younger women's attainment has narrowed the overall gap between men and women over the past 15 years.

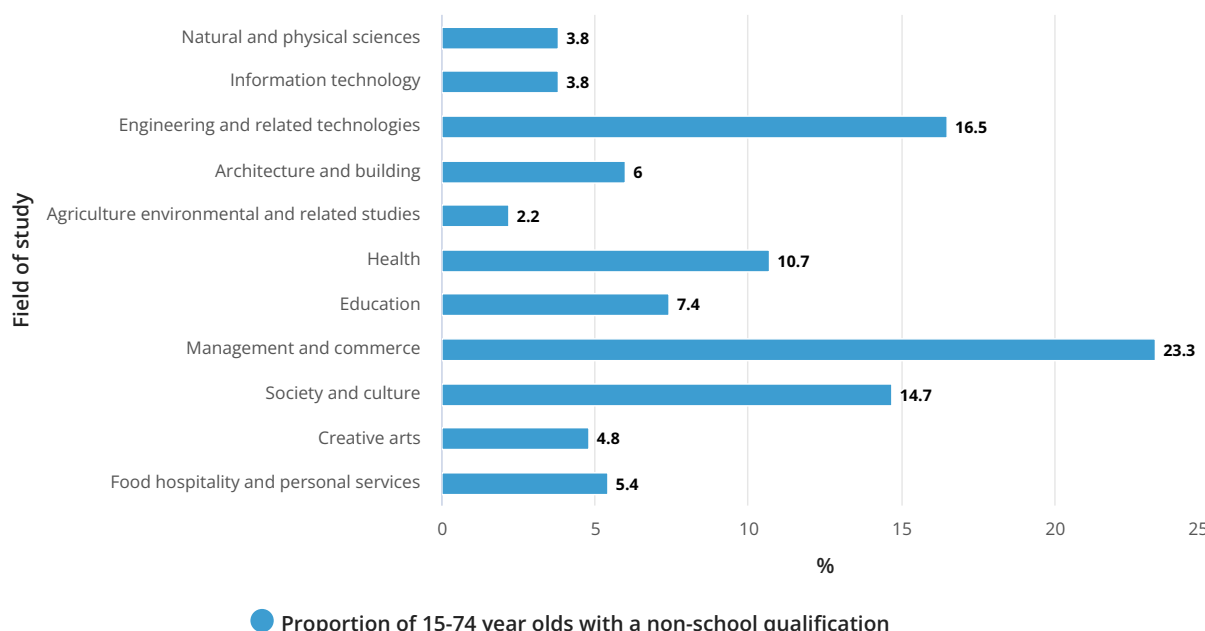
Graph 10 - Proportion of 20-64 year olds with a non-school qualification, by sex, 2004-2019



Attainment by level and field (people aged 15-74 years)

- Around 42% of women aged 15-74 years had a diploma or above, compared with 34% of men this age. More men than women had a certificate I-IV as their highest level of educational attainment (24% compared with 16%) (see Table 10 for more detail).
- For almost a quarter of people aged 15-74 years with a non-school qualification, the main field of study of their highest qualification was management and commerce (23%), followed by engineering and related technologies (17%), and studies in society and culture (15%) (see Table 16 for more detail).

Graph 11 - Proportion of 15-74 year olds with a non-school qualification, by field of study of their highest qualification, 2019



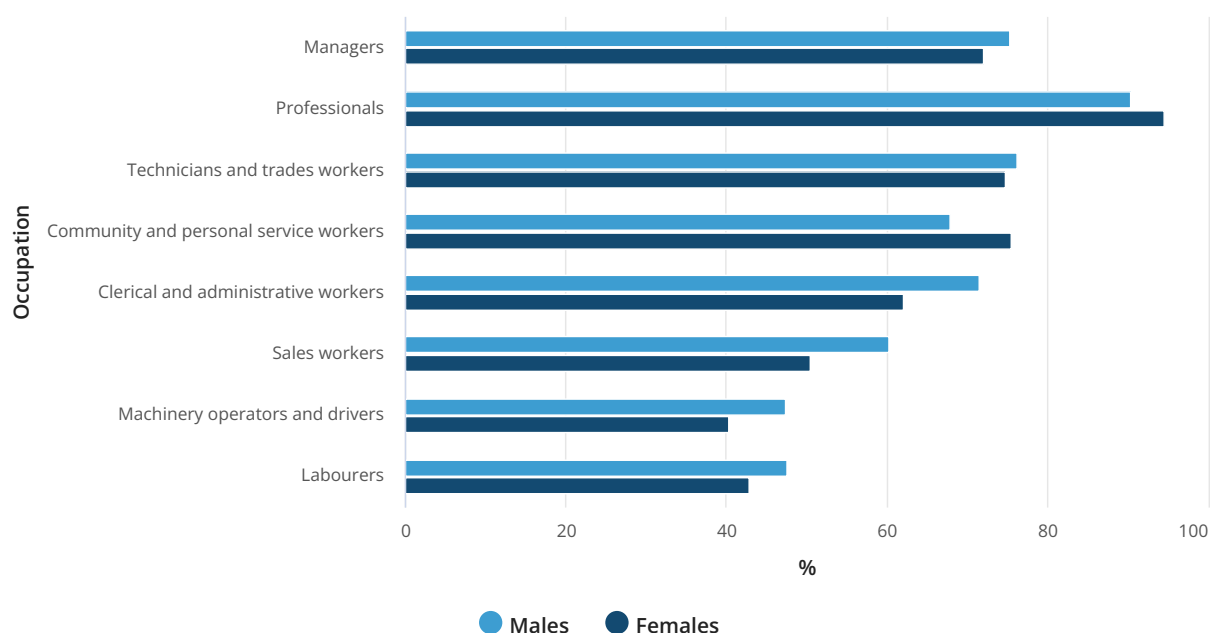
Non-school qualifications and employment

- Employment rates were higher for people with non-school qualifications. Around three-quarters (77%) of people aged 15-74 years with non-school qualifications were employed, compared with 56% of those without a non-school qualification.
- Around 68% of employed people aged 15-74 years had a non-school qualification, compared with 52% of unemployed people and 43% of those not in the labour force.
- See Table 10 in the Data downloads section for more detail.

Non-school qualifications and occupation

- Professionals had the highest rate of non-school qualifications, but at least two in five people aged 15-74 years in every occupation had a non-school qualification.
- More female than male community and personal service workers had non-school qualifications, while more male than female sales workers had non-school qualifications.

Graph 12 - Proportion of 15-74 year olds with a non-school qualification, by



Data downloads

Tables 1-20 Education and work

↓ [Download XLS](#)

[912 KB]

Table 21 Current study - persons aged 15-64 years, 2004 to 2019

↓ [Download XLS](#)

[1.75 MB]

Table 22 Current study for a non-school qualification at Certificate III level or above - persons aged 15-64 years, 2004 to 2019

↓ [Download XLS](#)

[1.58 MB]

Table 23 With or studying towards a non-school qualification - persons aged 20-64 years, 2004 to 2019

[!\[\]\(08a82c22d89d6b027ff69762ad096586_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)

[1.65 MB]

Table 24 Non-school qualification - persons aged 20-64 years, 2004 to 2019

[!\[\]\(feabb98897b440bc8695a03336a6e2df_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)

[1.25 MB]

Table 25 Highest non-school qualification (Certificate III level or above) - persons aged 20-64 years, 2004 to 2019

[!\[\]\(8d0f0e0fe25b320c33272c52aec1fbca_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)

[1.6 MB]

Table 26 Highest non-school qualification (Bachelor Degree level or above) - persons aged 20-64 years, 2004 to 2019

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[1.46 MB]

Table 27 Non-school qualification by age and sex, 1982 to 2019

[!\[\]\(c444627dab9fee9a1550c053ffaaaae2_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)

[438.5 KB]

Table 28 Highest non-school qualification by age and sex (Bachelor Degree level or above) - 1982 to 2019

[!\[\]\(f219cfc00b8db0cd1a81ae1fc9afaf28_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)

[444.5 KB]

Table 29 Educational attainment, Year 12 (or equivalent) - persons aged 15-64 years, 2004 to 2019

[!\[\]\(df47d6bec273bbb8b349135fff3a20f7_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)

[1.5 MB]

Table 30 Educational attainment, Year 12 (or equivalent) or non-school qualification at Certificate II level or above - persons aged 15-64 years, 2004 to 2019

[!\[\]\(dc0c40d45c42e86bc0669168926f812c_img.jpg\) Download XLS](#)

[1.49 MB]

Table 31 Educational attainment, Year 12 (or equivalent) or non-school qualification at Certificate III level or above - persons aged 15-64 years, 2004 to 2019

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[1.47 MB]

Table 32 Fully engaged in employment or study - persons aged 15-64 years, 2004 to 2019

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[1.5 MB]

Table 33 Fully engaged in employment or study by age - persons not in school study aged 15-24 years, 2004 to 2019

[↓ Download XLS](#)

[1.52 MB]

Table 34 Level of highest educational attainment by engagement in employment or study - persons aged 15-24 years, 2004 to 2019

[↓ Download XLS](#)

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Data item list

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[562 KB]

All data cubes

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Survey material

Questionnaire

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[652.67 KB]

Previous catalogue number

This release previously used catalogue number 6227.0.

Methodology

[Education and Work, Australia methodology, May 2019](#)